WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management apparatus applied to an information processor including a data storage unit in which various data are stored and an output unit to present information including contents stored in said data storage unit, said information management apparatus comprising:

information data input means for inputting information data,

summary data generation means for generating summary data that can indicate succinctly contents of said information data input through said information data input means; and

manager means for storing in said data storage unit said information data input through said information data input means and said summary data generated by said summary data generation means in correspondence,

wherein said manager means comprises

data reduction means for reducing a data amount of at least one of predetermined said information data and said summary data stored in correspondence in said data storage unit until a capacity available for storage is ensured when the capacity to store said information data newly input through said information data input means and corresponding said summary data is insufficient in said data storage unit,

said predetermined information data and summary data being selected according to a criterion set in a variable manner.

2. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data reduction means reduces the data amount of at least one of said predetermined information data and summary data in a stepped manner.

3. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein reduction of said data amount is effected by deleting at least one of said predetermined information data and summary data from said data

storage unit.

4. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein reduction of said data amount is effected by compressing at least one of said predetermined information data and summary data in said data storage unit.

5. The information management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, when said available capacity for storage is still insufficient even after all said predetermined information data and summary data are compressed in said data storage unit, said manager means deletes at least one of said predetermined information data and summary data stored in correspondence in said data storage unit until said available capacity for storage is ensured in said data storage unit.

6. The information management apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the data amount of at least one of said predetermined information data and summary data is deleted in a stepped manner until said available capacity for storage is ensured.

7. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising importance level determination means for determining a level of importance of said information data corresponding to said summary data based on a variably-set predetermined guideline,

said criterion corresponding to said level of importance determined by said importance level determination means.

8. The information management apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising guideline set means operated by an external source for setting said predetermined guideline in a variable manner.

9. The information management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said level of importance corresponding to said predetermined

information data and summary data is lower than said level of importance of said newly input information data.

10. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said manager means comprises insufficient capacity determination means for determining said insufficient capacity based on a comparison result by comparing an available capacity in said data storage unit and a
5   total size of said information data newly input through said information data input means and corresponding said summary data.

11. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said summary data generation means generates said summary data based on data obtained according to a predetermined condition from contents of said information data, and
5   wherein said predetermined condition is set in a variable manner.

12. The information management apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising condition set means operated by an external source for setting said predetermined condition in a variable manner.

13. An information management method comprising:
an information data input step of inputting information data,
a summary data generation step of generating summary data that can indicate succinctly contents of said information data input at said
5   information data input step, and
an organization step storing in correspondence said information data input at said information data input step and said summary data generated at said summary data generation step in a data storage unit prepared in advance from which stored contents are presented via an output unit
10 prepared in advance,
wherein said organization step includes a data reduction step of reducing a data amount of at least one of predetermined said information data and said summary data stored in correspondence in said data storage

unit until a capacity available for storage is ensured when the capacity to store said information data newly input at said information data input step and corresponding said summary data is insufficient in said data storage unit,

wherein said predetermined information data and summary data are selected according to a criterion set in a variable manner.

14. An information management method comprising:

an information data input step of inputting information data,

a summary data generation step of generating summary data that can indicate succinctly contents of said information data input at said information data input step, and

an organization step of storing in correspondence said information data input at said information data input step and said summary data generated at said summary data generation step in a data storage unit prepared in advance from which stored contents are presented via an output unit prepared in advance,

wherein said organization step comprises a compression step of compressing at least one of predetermined said information data and said summary data stored in correspondence in said data storage unit until an available capacity for storage is ensured when the capacity to store said information data newly input at said information data input step and corresponding said summary data is insufficient in said data storage unit,

wherein said predetermined information data and summary data are selected according to a criterion set in a variable manner.

15. A machine-readable recording medium recorded with an information management program to execute an information management method with the machine,

said information management method comprising:

an information data input step of inputting information data,

a summary data generation step of generating summary data that can indicate succinctly contents of said information data input at said

information data input step, and

an organization step storing in correspondence said information data input at said information data input step and said summary data generated at said summary data generation step in a data storage unit prepared in advance from which stored contents are presented via an output unit prepared in advance,

wherein said organization step includes a data reduction step of reducing a data amount of at least one of predetermined said information data and said summary data stored in correspondence in said data storage unit until a capacity available for storage is ensured when the capacity to store said information data newly input at said information data input step and corresponding said summary data is insufficient in said data storage unit,

wherein said predetermined information data and summary data are selected according to a criterion set in a variable manner.

16.   A program product to execute an information management method with a computer,

said information management method comprising:

an information data input step of inputting information data,

a summary data generation step of generating summary data that can indicate succinctly contents of said information data input at said information data input step, and

an organization step of storing in correspondence said information data input at said information data input step and said summary data generated at said summary data generation step in a data storage unit prepared in advance from which stored contents are presented via an output unit prepared in advance,

wherein said organization step comprises a data reduction step of reducing at least one of predetermined said information data and said summary data stored in correspondence in said data storage unit until an available capacity for storage is ensured when the capacity to store said information data newly input at said information data input step and

corresponding said summary data is insufficient in said data storage unit,
wherein said predetermined information data and summary data
are selected according to a criterion set in a variable manner.

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